

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV 11-98) | | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 4191/PCT |
| TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 | | |
| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/11754 | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 25. November 2000 (25.11.00) | PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 02. December 1999 (02.12.99) |
| US APPLICATION NO. (If known) 09/890613 not known to be assigned | | |
| TITLE OF INVENTION Arrangement of a Heating Layer for a High-Temperature Gas Sensor | | |
| APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Michael BISCHOF; Burkhard KESSLER; Ralf MOOS; Ralf MUELLER; Willi MUELLER; Carsten PLOG | | |
| Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: | | |
| <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)), with Trans. Declaration;</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). (4 pages);</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p> | | |
| Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included: | | |
| <p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Form PTO-1449, 9 references.</p> <p>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: a) a return receipt postcard, b) Priority Document #199 57 991.1 c) Figs.1a,1b,1c,2a,2b,3,4a,4b,5a, 5b,6,7,8,9,10 on 4 sheets of formal drawings; d) Form PTO-2038 (\$900.00) to cover filing fee & Assignment Recordal fee.</p> | | |
| NOTE: The priority of German Patent Application 199 57 991.1 filed in the Federal Republic of Germany on 2. December 1999 is claimed under 35 USC §119. | | |

17. The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482),
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO **X\$970.00X**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$860.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO **\$760.00**

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$670.00**

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **X\$960.00X**

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**\$ 860.00**

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$ 0

| CLAIMS | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Total claims | 12 - 20 = | 0 | X \$18.00 | \$ 0 |
| Independent claims | 1 - 3 = | 0 | X \$78.00 | \$ 0 |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) | | | + \$260.00 | \$ 0 |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$ 860.00 |
| Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28). | | | | \$ 0 |
| SUBTOTAL = | | | | \$ 860.00 |
| Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). | | | | \$ 0 |
| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = | | | | \$ 860.00 |
| Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property | | | | + \$ 40.00 |
| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = | | | | \$ 900.00 |
| | | | | Amount to be: \$ |
| | | | | refunded \$ |
| | | | | charged \$ |

a. Form PTO-2038: (Credit Card Payment Form)A check in the amount of **\$900.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.

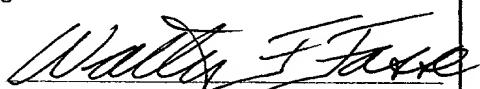
b. Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any/additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **50-0507**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

Customer No.: 021553



SIGNATURE

Walter F. Fasse

NAME July 31, 2001

36132

REGISTRATION NUMBER

USPS EXPRESS MAIL
EL 897 676 425 US
JULY 31 2001

DOCKET NO.: 4191/PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
IN THE MATTER OF THE **NEW PCT NATIONAL PHASE PATENT APPLICATION**

OF: Michael BISCHOF et al.

USSN: TO BE ASSIGNED

FILED: July 31, 2001

FOR: Arrangement of a Heating Layer for a
High Temperature Gas Sensor

INTERNATIONAL SERIAL NO.: PCT/EP00/11754

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 25. NOVEMBER 2000 (25.11.00)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
BOX PCT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

July 31, 2001

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO MINIMIZE THE FILING FEE

Dear Sir:

In order to minimize the filing fee, please amend the above identified patent application as follows before calculating the filing fee.

Referring to the Literal Translation of International Application
PCT/EP00/11754

In the Claims:

Claims **1 to 8** are maintained for calculating the filing fee.

Please cancel claims **9 to 12**.

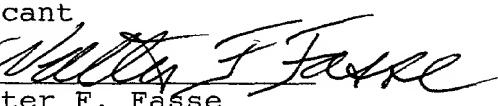
REMARKS:

After calculating the filing fee, please further enter the accompanying Second Preliminary Amendment which adds new claims **13 to 16** for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael BISCHOF et al.

Applicant

By 

Walter F. Fasse

Patent Attorney

Reg. No.: 36132

Tel. No.: (207) 862-4671

Fax. No.: (207) 862-4681

P. O. Box 726

Hampden, ME 04444-0726

WFF:ar/4191/PCT
Enclos.: postcard

USPS EXPRESS MAIL
EL 897 676 425 US
JULY 31 2001

09/890613

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 JUL 2001

DOCKET NO.: 4191 /PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW PCT NATIONAL PHASE PATENT APPLICATION

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| OF: Michael BISCHOF et al. | | USPS EXPRESS MAIL |
| USSN: TO BE ASSIGNED | | EL 897 676 425 US |
| FILED: July 31, 2001 | | JULY 31 2001 |
| FOR: Arrangement of a Heating Layer for a | | |
| High Temperature Gas Sensor | | |

INTERNATIONAL SERIAL NO.: PCT/EP00/11754

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 25. NOVEMBER 2000 (25.11.00)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
BOX PCT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

July 31, 2001

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

After calculating the filing fee, but before the first examination, please amend the above identified application as follows.

Referring to the Literal Translation of International Application
PCT/EP00/11754

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 8 are maintained unchanged.

Claims 9 to 12 have been cancelled by the First Preliminary Amendment to Minimize the Filing Fee.

Please enter new claims 13 to 16 for examination together with claims 1 to 8, as follows.

- 1 **13.** Arrangement of a heating layer (8) according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that additionally at least one measuring
3 conductor path (12) for determining the temperature is
4 applied, and the measuring conductor path (12) is in
5 contact with the heating conductor path (6).

- 1 **14.** Arrangement of a heating layer (8) according to claim 13,
2 whereby the high-temperature gas sensor comprises a
3 functional layer (4) with the length (L), characterized in
4 that at least one contact is applied between measuring
5 conductor path (12) and heating conductor path (6) in the
6 region of the length (L) below the functional layer (4).

- 1 **15.** Arrangement of a heating layer (8) according to claim 14,
2 characterized in that more than two contact possibilities
3 (13) are formed between measuring conductor path (12) and
4 heating conductor path (6), in order to select between
5 various different resistance values of the heating
6 conductor path (6).

- 1 **16.** Arrangement according to claim 14, characterized in that
2 the length (L) of the functional layer (4) is smaller than
3 the spacing distance (L + G) between supply line part and
4 sensor tip, in which the heating conductor path (6) is
5 arranged.

REMARKS:

Examination of the present U. S. National Phase Application is to proceed on the basis of claims 1 to 8 and 13 to 16. Claims 13 to 16 are literal translations of original PCT claims 9 to 12 but avoid multiple dependencies. Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1 to 8 and 13 to 16 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael BISCHOF et al.
Applicant

By 
Walter F. Fasse
Patent Attorney
Reg. No.: 36132
Tel. No.: (207) 862-4671
Fax. No.: (207) 862-4681
P. O. Box 726
Hampden, ME 04444-0726

USPS EXPRESS MAIL
EL 897 676 425 US
JULY 31 2001

41PRTS

USPS EXPRESS MAIL
EL 897 676 425 US

DOCKET NO.: 4191/PCT
INVENTORS: Michael BISCHOF et al.

JULY 31 2001
JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 JUL 2001
09/890613

LITERAL TRANSLATION OF PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION
PCT/EP00/11754, FILED ON NOVEMBER 25, 2000

Arrangement of a Heating Layer for a High-Temperature Gas Sensor

The invention relates to an arrangement of a heating layer for a high-temperature gas sensor according to the preamble of the claim 1.

Sensors that are used in the exhaust gas of a combustion engine must not only be high-temperature stable, but rather they must typically also be regulated to a determined operating temperature, because both the temperature of the exhaust gas as well as the exhaust gas throughput are dependent on the operating state of the engine and vary strongly. Typically such sensors are operated at several hundred degrees Celsius. A typical example therefor is the λ -sonde which can be operated at temperatures up to 1000°C.

15 New types of planar exhaust gas sensors, which are presently being produced by various manufacturers, consist of a structure as is shown in Fig. 1a, 1b and 1c in various perspectives. In this context, Fig. 1a shows the top side of the sensor as a plan view, Fig. 1b shows the sensor in a side view on the section location marked with a dashed line, and Fig. 1c shows the bottom 20 side of the sensor in a plan view. For orientation, a coordinate

system with an x-, y- and z-axis is drawn in. The Figures show an elongated rectangular carrier 1, also called a transducer, which generally consists of an electrically insulating substrate, and on the underside 5 of which, a heating layer 8 is applied as shown in Fig. 1b and 1c. This heating layer 8 comprises a heating conductor path 6 and a supply line part 2. The heating conductor path 6 is located on the sensor bottom side under the functional layer 4, which is arranged on the sensor top side 7. The functional layer 4 determines the special characteristics of the sensor, such as, for example, the selectivity for a certain gas or the like. Then, an electrode structure 3 adapted to the special requirements is applied on the sensor top side 7 under the functional layer 4. A temperature that is constant over the location must prevail on the sensor tip 10 on the sensor top side 7, in the area in which the functional layer 4 is applied. This constant temperature is achieved with the aid of the heating layer 8 and a temperature sensor or feeler, which is not shown in this illustration and is located on the sensor bottom side. Thereby the functional layer 4 is regulated to a determined temperature, the so-called operating temperature.

A further function of the elongated appearing carrier is to ensure that the temperature on the side facing away from the sensor tip 10, the so-called sensor connection side 9, is so low that synthetic plastic insulated cables can be applied as measuring lines or as power supply lines on the end of the supply line part 2 of the heating layer 8.

For the functioning of the sensor, it is of decisive significance, how constant the temperature profile is on and over the functional layer 4, and how exactly the operating temperature can be regulated.

5 In the application example, the heating conductor path 6 is arranged as a heating meander. The uniform zig-zag shaped meander band runs parallel to the y-axis. The constant height A of the meander here corresponds to the length L of the functional layer 4 lying thereover. The width b of the heating conductor path 6 is constant. The two ends of the heating conductor path 6 are connected with the supply line part 2 of the heating layer 8. The supply line part 2 of the heating layer 8 is guided to the sensor connection side 9.

10 15 In the EP 0,720,018 A1, a heating layer for an exhaust gas sensor is disclosed, in which the heating conductor path 6 is arranged in a serpentine shaped manner. The spacing distance of the serpentines among each other is always the same. This form similarly corresponds to a uniformly modulating meander band that runs parallel to the y-axis of the sensor.

20 In the U. S. 5,430,428, DE 43 24 659 C1 and DE 198 30 709, similarly, forms for the extending path or progression of the heating conductor path in an exhaust gas sensor are disclosed. In this context, the heating conductor path is arranged in a meandering shape. In this context, however, the uniformly modulating mean-

der band is arranged rectangularly and also runs parallel to the y-axis of the sensor.

In all of these publications, the heating conductor path has the form of a uniformly modulating meander band. The height A of the meander band is constant during the entire extension or path progression.

A similar construction of various gas sensors is also described in the script "Industrial Gas Sensor Arrangements", especially in part 4 by K. Ingrisch: "Semiconductor Gas Sensors" of the Instruction Course 22904/41.551 at the TAE Esslingen; G. Wieglob (production); Esslingen 1997 and in the SAE-Paper 960692 by K. Ingrisch et al.: "Chemical Sensors for CO/NO_x-Detection in Automotive Climate Control Systems".

Arrangements of the heating layer 8 in high-temperature gas sensors are also known in which the heating conductor path 6 forms a meander band, which, beginning at the supply line part 2, first extends uniformly modulating on the one side parallel to the x-axis, and then extends in a straight line along the sensor tip parallel to the y-axis, and then again extends on the other side uniformly modulating parallel to the x-axis back to the supply line part 2. The width b of the heating conductor path 6 is not varied. The length L of the region in which the heating conductor path 6 is arranged, corresponds to the length L of the functional layer 4 lying thereover. Such a construction is disclosed, for example, in the DE 198 48 578 A1.

It is disadvantageous in all of the previously described arrangements, that a temperature gradient arises along the lengthwise axis x of the sensor, necessitated by the good thermal conductivity of the typically utilized Al_2O_3 substrate. This temperature gradient is subject to very large fluctuations. Thus, for a rated temperature of, for example, 600°C , this temperature gradient typically amounts to approximately 80°C over the length L of the functional layer 4, as it is shown in Fig. 2b. In Fig. 2b, the temperature at various points on the sensor top side is illustrated.

In order to make the temperature distribution on the sensor top side more homogeneous, it is suggested in the EP 0,477,394 to build up or construct the heating conductor paths on the sensor tip in the form of a ladder, whereby the ladder pattern contains a plurality of parallel circuit-connected individual conductors, which can be arranged in such a manner so that a homogeneous temperature distribution can be adjustably set over the length. In this context, both the width or the cross-section of the various heating conductor paths as well as the spacing between two heating conductor paths, which represent the spokes of the ladder formation, can vary.

It is disadvantageous in this publication, however, that due to the parallel circuit connection, the resistance of the heating conductor paths is reduced so far or so low that it is no longer possible to establish a resistance in the range of several ohms for the same specific resistance of the heating conductor path

resistance (generally platinum), because otherwise the layer thickness of the structure would have to become so thin that it could no longer be produced by thick layer or thick film technology.

5 In the DE 195 23 301, a heating arrangement for a high- temperature metal oxide sensor is disclosed, in which a substrate is provided, on which, in addition to the two supply line parts of the heating layer, two measuring conductor paths are arranged, which are connected to the heating conductor path, and wherein one or more connection lines are secured to a location on the supply line part of the heating layer that is as far away as possible from the heating conductor path. This arrangement in four wire technology is illustrated as a substitute circuit diagram in Fig. 3. That means, that in addition to the wide supply line parts of the heating layer, two additional measuring lines are introduced, on which the voltage drop over the heating resistance of the heating conductor path is tapped or taken-off. In this arrangement, it is irrelevant how large the resistances R_{z1} and R_{z2} of the supply line parts of the heating layer are, because the voltage U_M is directly taken-off or tapped on the heating resistance R_H of the heating conductor path. Since the voltage U_M is measured in a zero-current condition, no voltage will drop across the two tapping resistors R_{A1} and R_{A2} . The resistance can be determined as $R_H = U_M/I_0$ from the measured current I_0 and the voltage U_M . A simplified embodiment thereof is also known as state of the art, namely the so-called three-wire technology. If one assumes the two resistances of the

supply line parts of the heating layer to be equal, then one can omit one of the two voltage taps. Then, one must only still measure the total voltage U_0 and then obtains: $R_H = (2xU'_M - U_0)/I_0$. One measuring conductor and one connection contact are saved through this three-wire technology.

It is disadvantageous in this publication, however, that the temperature profile of the sensor is not constant over the length L in the x-direction, and thus the heating resistance of the heating conductor path is only to be regarded as an average value over the entire range L . Therefore, a regulation can similarly only be achieved very inexactly therewith. This is especially of disadvantage, if the temperature of the sensor housing changes strongly, as is the case, for example, in the exhaust gas of an automobile, because then the temperature gradient similarly strongly varies over the sensor chip, and thus R_H can be allocated to no temperature of the functional layer.

It is the object of the invention to arrange the heating conductor path(s) in such a manner so that the same temperature prevails at each location of the functional surface of the sensor.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a fundamental basis with which an exact temperature determination, and connected therewith, an exact temperature regulation on the functional surface, is made possible.

This object is achieved according to the invention by the features in the patent claim 1. In this context, the meander-shaped

heating conductor path comprises different partial heating resistances in different partial sections with reference to the x-axis. The height or magnitude of the partial heating resistance is dependent on the spacing distance relative to the sensor tip.

5

Advantageous further embodiments are defined by the dependent claims. Hereby, the partial heating resistance decreases or diminishes in a direction toward the sensor tip. This is achieved in that the path length of the heating conductor path and therewith of the meander band varies from partial section to partial section. In this context, the path length of the heating conductor band is given if one would pull apart the meander band like a thread that is looped or tangled in itself. The width of the heating conductor path can also vary in various partial sections, alone or together with the path length. Moreover, in addition to the supply lines of the heating layer, measuring supply lines are also applied, with which the exact temperature can be obtained, so that an exact temperature regulation is made possible. In a further advantageous embodiment, the heating resistance to be measured can be adjustingly set, so that plural sensors comprise an identical resistance/temperature characteristic curve.

20

The advantages achieved with the invention consist in that the sensor, and especially the functional surface of a high- temperature gas sensor, can be adjustingly set to an exact temperature, which then prevails at each location on the functional surface.

25

The heated surface then comprises a minimal temperature gradient. The temperature measurement provides more exact results and the entire high-temperature gas sensor works with a higher accuracy. Also, thereby the sensors may be normed or normalized among one another, so that the same temperature can be allocated for the same measured heating resistance of various sensors.

The invention shall be described in the following in greater detail in connection with example embodiments and the Figures.

Fig. 1a shows the top side of a high-temperature gas sensor according to the prior art.

Fig. 1b shows the side view of a high-temperature gas sensor according to the prior art.

Fig. 1c shows the bottom side of a high-temperature gas sensor with a first heating layer according to the prior art.

Fig. 2a shows the bottom side of a high-temperature gas sensor with a second heating layer according to the prior art.

Fig. 2b shows the temperature distribution for a high-temperature gas sensor with the heating layer shown in Fig. 2b.

Fig. 3 shows the circuit for the temperature measurement on a high-temperature gas sensor according to the prior art.

Fig. 4a shows the first heating layer with a meander-shaped heating conductor path and different partial resistances.

Fig. 4b shows the diagram of the temperature distribution for a high-temperature gas sensor with a heating conductor path shown in Fig. 4a.

Fig. 5a shows the second heating layer with a meander-shaped heating conductor path and different partial resistances.

Fig. 5b shows the diagram of the temperature distribution for a high-temperature gas sensor with a heating conductor path shown in Fig. 5a.

Fig. 6 shows the heating layer with a first additional arrangement for measuring lines for the temperature determination.

Fig. 7 shows the heating layer with a second additional arrangement for measuring lines for the temperature determination.

Fig. 8 shows the heating layer with a third additional arrangement for measuring lines for the temperature determination.

Fig. 9 shows the heating layer with a fourth additional arrangement for measuring lines for the temperature determination.

Fig. 10 shows the heating layer with a fifth additional arrangement for measuring lines for the temperature determination.

Fig. 4a shows a heating layer arrangement with a heating conductor path 6, of which the extending path or progression forms a meander-band, which, beginning on the supply line part 2, first extends modulatingly on the one side parallel to the x-axis, and then extends in a straight line along the sensor tip parallel to the y-axis, and then again extends on the other side modulatingly parallel to the x-axis back to the supply line part 2. In this context, the heating layer 8 was produced with a platinum thick film paste, which was applied by a screen printing technique onto an aluminum oxide substrate and thereafter was fired. For achieving a homogeneous temperature profile, the partial heating resistance in the x-direction was varied. The partial heating resistance is proportional to the quotient of the path length l and the width of the heating conductor path b relative to a path distance in the x-direction. In order to adapt the heating resistance to the desired temperature profile, that is to say the

same temperatures over the entire functional layer, in the example embodiment, the path length l of the heating conductor path 6 is shortened from partial section to partial section, in that the height of the meander-band 11 is constantly reduced. It would also be exactly as effective to reduce the modulation rate, namely the frequency of the direction change of the meander-band 11, with reference to a path distance in the x-direction.

The relationship between the path length of the heating conductor path 6 and the proportion of the path distance covered or traversed in the x-direction is important. Thereby, the partial heating resistance per unit length in the x-direction can be varied. Thus, different energy quantities can be supplied to the functional layer at different locations.

In this application example, a constant heating conductor path width b of $b \approx 300 \mu\text{m}$ was selected. It is also evident in this illustration, that the area or region in which the heating conductor path 6 is applied, is substantially longer than the length L of the functional layer lying thereover. The heating conductor path 6 arranged in a meander-shape, which is arranged between the end of the functional layer 4 lying thereover and the supply line part 2, serves to compensate and to provide counter heating for the heat flow to the sensor connection side 9. In order to achieve this, most of the heating power, that is to say the greatest proportion on the entire length of the heating conductor path is required. The high resistance value per unit length in the x-direction is achieved by the long winding path of the

heating conductor path. Which resistance value is required at which location can either be calculated or determined by experiments.

Fig. 4b shows the temperature distribution curve along the x-axis for a high-temperature gas sensor with a heating conductor path shown in Fig. 4a. In this context, the temperature along the x-axis over the entire sensor is detected or obtained dependent on the spacing distance relative to the sensor tip. It can be seen that the temperature in the region of the length L of the functional layer comprises only a very small temperature fluctuation ΔT in the x-direction. Compared to the temperature distribution shown in Fig. 2b, there is achieved a temperature fluctuation ΔT that is smaller by 60°C.

Fig. 5a shows a heating layer arrangement with a heating conductor path 6, of which the extending path or progression forms a meander-band, which, beginning on the supply line part 2, first extends modulatingly on the one side parallel to the x-axis, and then extends in a straight line along the sensor tip parallel to the y-axis, and then again extends on the other side modulatingly parallel to the x-axis back to the supply line part 2. In this context, the heating layer 8 was produced with a platinum thick film paste, which was applied by a screen printing technique onto an aluminum oxide substrate and thereafter was fired. For achieving a homogeneous temperature profile, the partial heating resistance in the x-direction was varied. The partial heating resistance is proportional to the quotient of the path length 1

and the width of the heating conductor path b relative to a path distance in the x-direction. In order to adapt the heating resistance to the desired temperature profile, that is to say the same temperatures over the entire functional layer, in the example embodiment, the path length l of the heating conductor path 6 is shortened from partial section to partial section, in that both the height A of the meander-band 11 as well as the modulation rate, i.e. the frequency of the direction change of the meander-band 11 in the x-direction, and the width b of the heating conductor path are varied, so that the partial heating resistance decreases or diminishes toward the sensor tip.

The relationship between the path length of the heating conductor path 6 and the proportion of the path distance covered or traversed in the x-direction is important. Thereby, the partial heating resistance per unit length in the x-direction can be varied. Thus, different energy quantities can be supplied to the functional layer at different locations. Also the width b of the heating conductor path is of significance. The shorter the path length of the heating conductor path and the larger its width in a partial section, the smaller is the partial heating resistance of the heating conductor path region, and thus, the smaller is the heating in this region.

In this application example, the heating conductor path comprises varying widths b. In the two sections that extend along to the x-axis, the heating conductor path width amounts to $b \approx 300 \mu\text{m}$. On the straight section, which extends parallel to the y-axis on

the sensor tip, the value increases to $b \approx 600 \mu\text{m}$. Also here, the heating conductor path arranged in a meander-shape, which is arranged between the end of the functional layer 4 lying there-over and the supply line part 2, again serves to compensate and to provide counter-heating for the heat flow to the sensor connection side 9. In order to achieve this, the most heating power, that is to say the greatest proportion on the path length of the heating conductor path is needed. In this application example, it is not absolutely necessary, that the two meander-shaped partial parts are axially symmetrical. The required resistance values may also be achieved by a variation of other parameters. They also need not extend exactly parallel. This is, however, especially advantageous, if the temperature gradient in the y-direction shall be very small, because then the curve progression does not need to be separately determined once again.

Fig. 5b shows a diagram of the temperature distribution for a high-temperature gas sensor with a heating conductor path shown in Fig. 5a. In this context, the temperature along the x-axis over the entire sensor is determined or obtained dependent on the spacing distance relative to the sensor tip. It can be seen that the temperature fluctuation ΔT in the region length L of the functional layer has been further reduced in comparison to Fig. 4b.

From the previously described example embodiments it becomes clear, that the characteristic values, the width b of the heating conductor path and the path length l of the heating conductor

path, are varied in order to obtain a homogeneous temperature distribution. These characteristic values can be varied both individually as well as in all possible combinations, during the heating conductor path progression. Thereby, the path length can 5 be varied both by the height A of the meander-band 11 as well as by the modulation rate, i.e. the frequency of the direction change in the x-direction of the meander-band 11.

In the further Figures, embodiments are presented, which make it possible, due to the homogeneous temperature distribution, to determine the temperature on the sensor surface exactly in the region in which the functional layer is located.

Fig. 6 shows a heating layer with a first additional arrangement for measuring lines for the temperature determination. Here, two further paths 12 which serve as voltage taps, are applied parallel to the broad supply line parts 2 of the heating layer. They are guided from the two ends of the heating conductor path 6 to the sensor connection side 9. By this arrangement, the supply line resistance, that is to say the voltage drop over the supply line parts 2, is compensated over the path distance Z, but the portion of the resistance in the region G, which serves for the counter-heating, is also measured together. Since, however, the largest temperature gradient lies in the region G, as described in the preceding example embodiments, and because the greatest portion of the total path length of the heating conductor path 20 6 is provided at G, the resistance arises as a combination of the resistance portions of the heating conductor path of the partial 25

path distances G and L. Only the resistance portion at L is measured at a temperature that is constant in the region of L. If the temperature gradient at G is the same for all conditions, then the measuring result can be exactly evaluated.

5 With strongly fluctuating surrounding environmental temperatures, which is the case, for example, in an application in the exhaust gas of an automobile, the temperature gradient in the region of G will vary. Then it makes sense to arrange the measuring lines as it is described in Fig. 7.

40 In Fig. 7 and 8, two measuring conductor paths 12 for temperature determination are similarly applied. Here, however, the voltage is tapped in a region at which a constant temperature prevails. That is to say, the measuring conductor paths 12 can be applied everywhere on the heating conductor path 6, somewhere in the region of L at a desired location, in a symmetrical manner. Here it is similarly possible, through the measurement of the resistance, to measure and therewith also regulate the temperature.

20 In Fig. 9, two asymmetrical measuring conductor paths 12 for the temperature determination are applied. Here the voltage is also tapped in a region at which a constant temperature prevails. That is to say, they can be applied everywhere on the heating conductor path 6, somewhere in the region of L, at a desired location, in an asymmetrical manner. Here it is similarly possible, through the measurement of the resistance, to measure and 25 therewith also regulate the temperature.

Fig. 10 shows a heating layer with a variable arrangement for measuring conductor paths 12 for the temperature determination. In this context, the voltage taps are applied at various different locations 13 within the path distance L. In the further production process, the individual voltage taps can be severed or trimmed in such a manner by means of a laser method so that only one connection remains, which offers exactly the desired resistance value. In this manner, fluctuations during the production, for example of the layer thickness or of the specific resistance of the heating conductor path material, can be compensated, in order to obtain thereby a constant relationship between measured resistance value and temperature for all sensors. In this context, also the total resistance of the heating conductor path 6 remains unchanged. Sensors fabricated in this manner will then all comprise a common resistance-temperature characteristic curve. Contrary to conventional structures, for which complicated trimming must be carried out on the sensor connection side through variation of the total resistance, here the trimming takes place by variation of the voltage tap on the high-temperature side.

It is evident for all applications, that the measuring conductor paths cannot only be fabricated as shown in the four-wire technique, but also analogously may be fabricated in the three-wire technique, as already described in Fig. 3.

Patent Claims:

1. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2. gas sensor, whereby

3. the heating layer (8) consists of a heating conductor
4. path (6) and

5. the heating conductor path (6) is arranged in a
6. meander-shape between a supply line part (2) and the sensor
7. tip (10),

8. characterized in that the heating conductor path (6)
9. comprises different partial heating resistances between the
10. supply line part (2) and the sensor tip (10), and the
11. magnitude of the partial heating resistance is dependent on
12. the spacing distance of the partial heating resistance of
13. the heating conductor path (6) to the sensor tip (10).

1. 2. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2. gas sensor according to patent claim 1, characterized in
3. that the partial heating resistance diminishes toward the
4. sensor tip (10).

1. 3. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2. gas sensor according to patent claim 1, characterized in
3. that the path length (l) of the heating conductor path (6)
4. varies dependent on the spacing distance to the sensor tip
5. (10).

1 4. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2 gas sensor according to patent claim 2, characterized in
3 that the path length (l) of the heating conductor path (6)
4 diminishes dependent on the spacing distance to the sensor
5 tip (10).

1 5. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2 gas sensor according to patent claim 1, characterized in
3 that the width (b) of the heating conductor path (6) varies
4 dependent on the spacing distance to the sensor tip (10).

1 6. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2 gas sensor according to patent claim 2, characterized in
3 that the width (b) of the heating conductor path (6)
4 enlarges in a direction of the sensor tip (10).

1 7. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2 gas sensor according to patent claim 1, characterized in
3 that the path length of the heating conductor path (6) and
4 the width (b) of the heating conductor path (6) varies
5 dependent on the spacing distance to the sensor tip (10).

1 8. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) for a high-temperature
2 gas sensor according to patent claim 2, characterized in
3 that the path length (l) of the heating conductor path (6)
4 diminishes and the width (b) of the heating conductor path
5 (6) enlarges from partial section to partial section in a
6 direction to the sensor tip (10).

- 1 9. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) according to one of the
2 preceding claims, characterized in that additionally at
3 least one measuring conductor path (12) for determining the
4 temperature is applied, and the measuring conductor path
5 (12) is in contact with the heating conductor path (6).

- 1 10. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) according to claim 9,
2 whereby the high-temperature gas sensor comprises a
3 functional layer (4) with the length (L), characterized in
4 that at least one contact is applied between measuring
5 conductor path (12) and heating conductor path (6) in the
6 region of the length (L) below the functional layer (4).

- 1 11. Arrangement of a heating layer (8) according to claim 10,
2 characterized in that more than two contact possibilities
3 (13) are formed between measuring conductor path (12) and
4 heating conductor path (6), in order to select between
5 various different resistance values of the heating
6 conductor path (6).

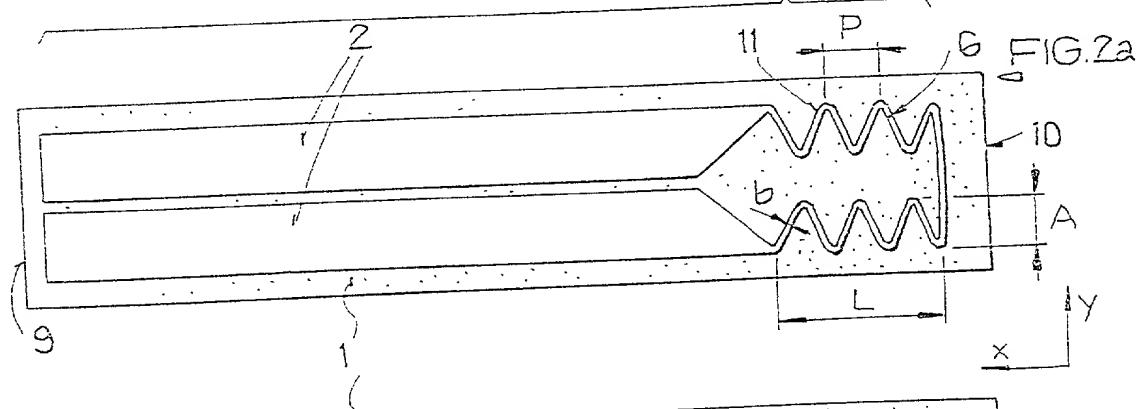
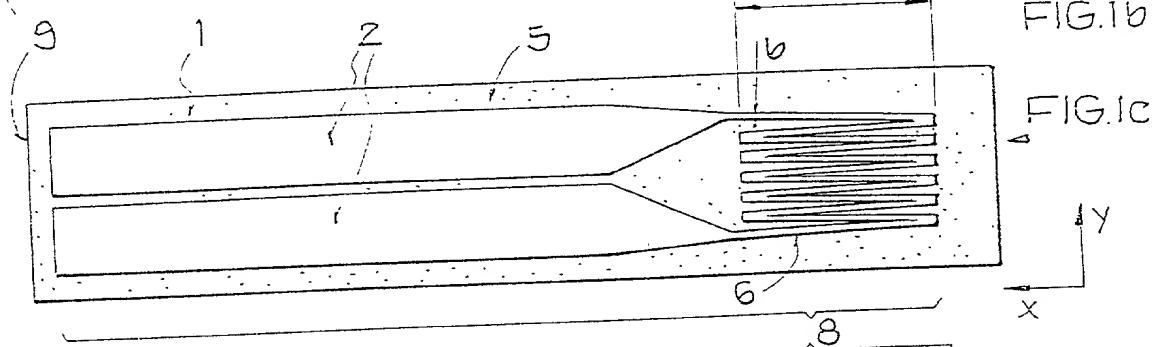
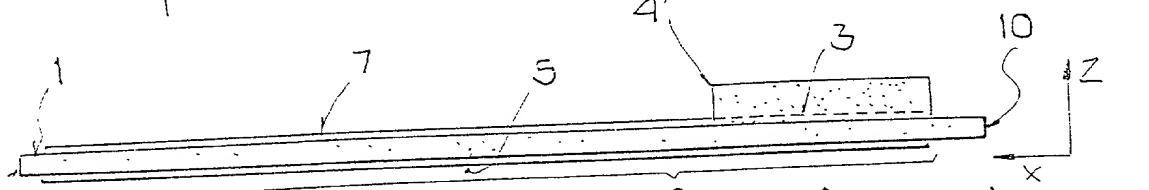
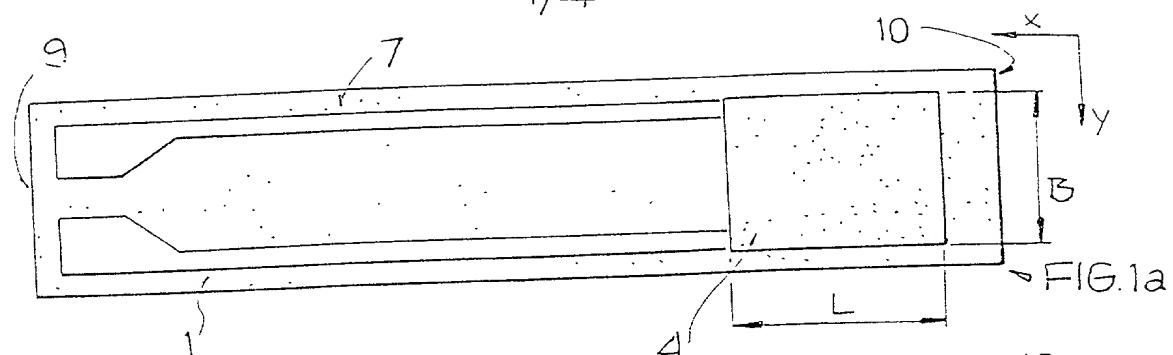
- 1 12. Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims,
2 characterized in that the length (L) of the functional
3 layer (4) is smaller than the spacing distance (L + G)
4 between supply line part and sensor tip, in which the
5 heating conductor path (6) is arranged.

ABSTRACT

1. Arrangement of a heating layer for a high-temperature gas sensor.
- 2.1 In known high-temperature gas sensors, the operating temperature on the functional layer of the sensor can neither be exactly adjustingly set or measured, nor exactly regulated. The new arrangement shall make it possible to exactly adjustingly set the working temperature in a surface covering manner in the functional layer of the sensor.
- 2.2 For adjustingly setting an exact working temperature over the entire functional layer, the heating conductor path, which is arranged under the functional layer, is constructed in such a manner, so that it comprises various different partial heating resistances in the various regions, in that the path length and/or the width of the heating conductor path is varied from partial section to partial section.
- 2.3 Such arrangements are required especially for high- temperature gas sensors, which are utilized in the exhaust gas of a combustion engine.

09/890613

1/4



364°C 424°C 441°C

360°C 420°C 448°C

366°C 422°C 441°C

FIG. 2b

09/890613

2/4

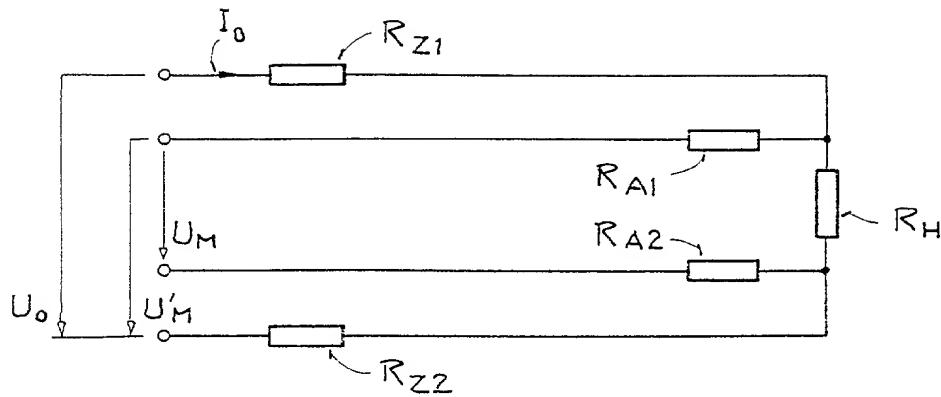


FIG. 3

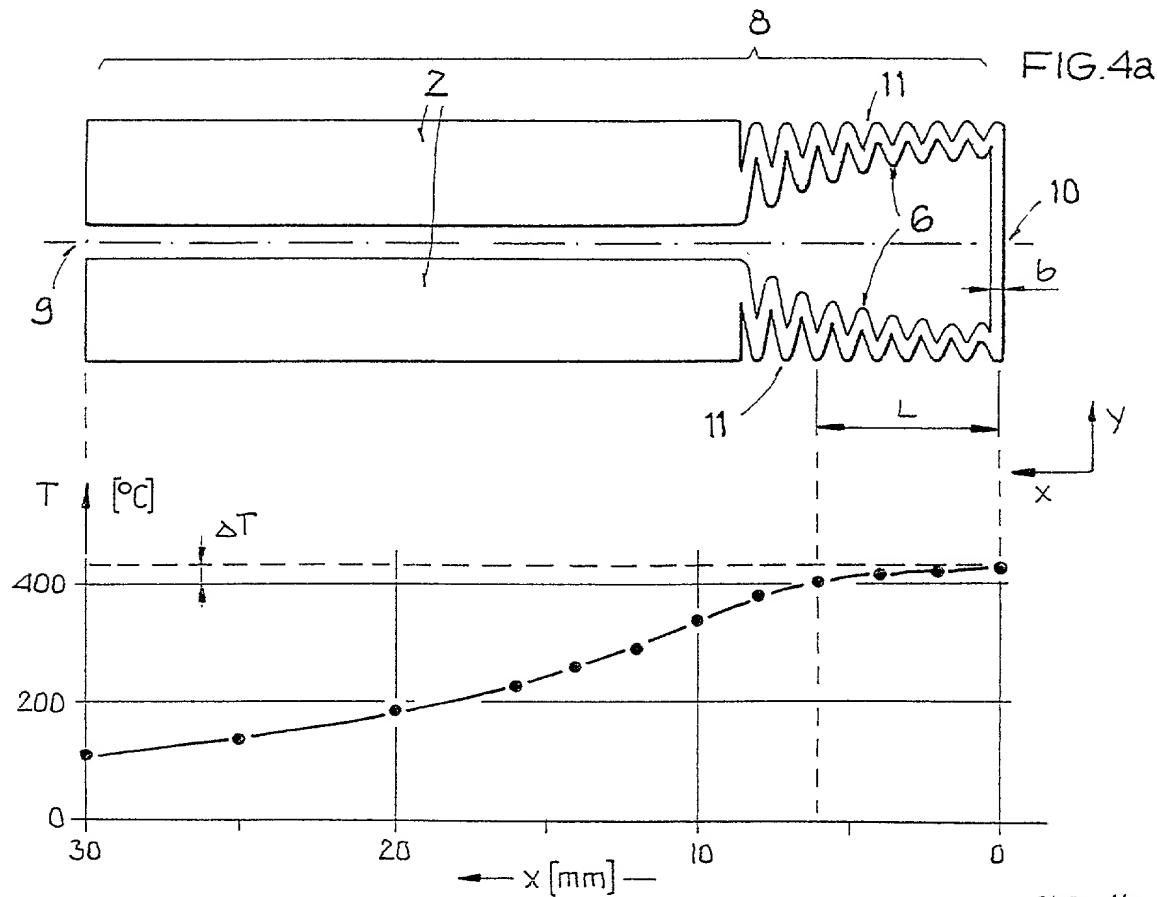


FIG.4b

3/4

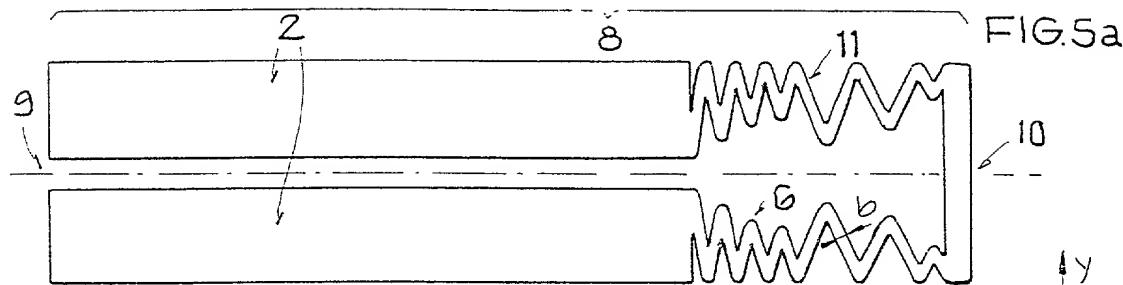


FIG.5a

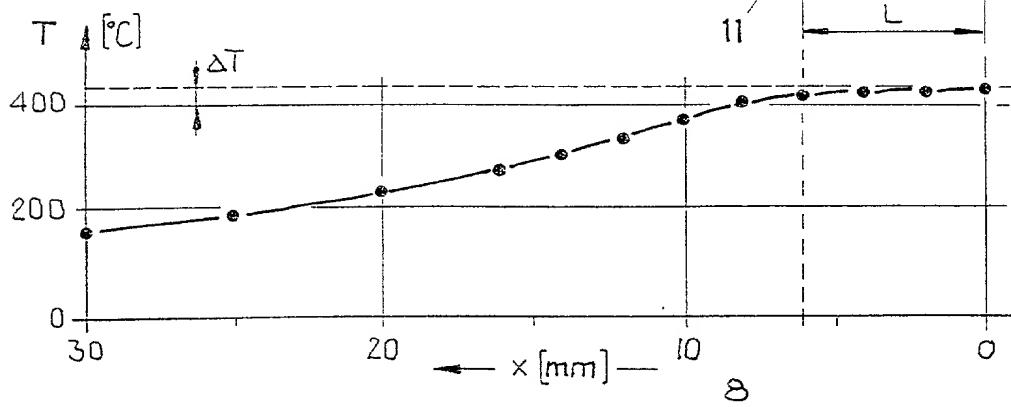


FIG.5b

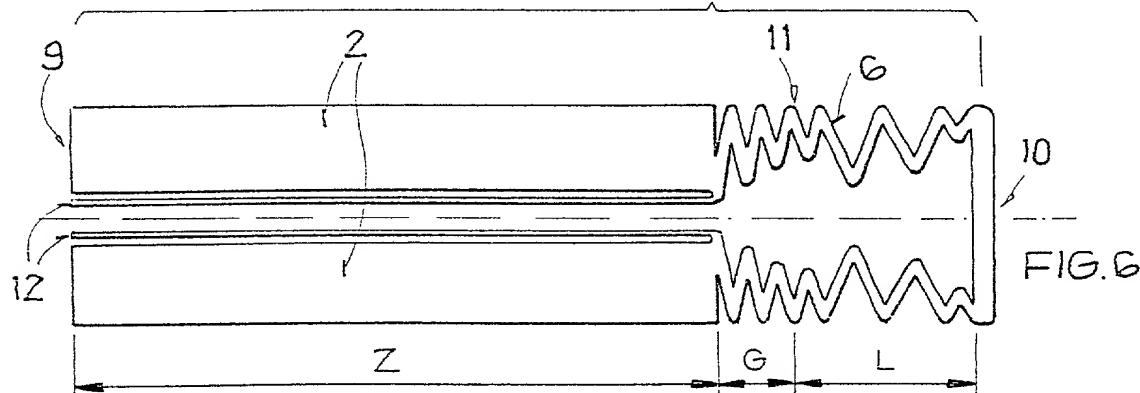


FIG.6

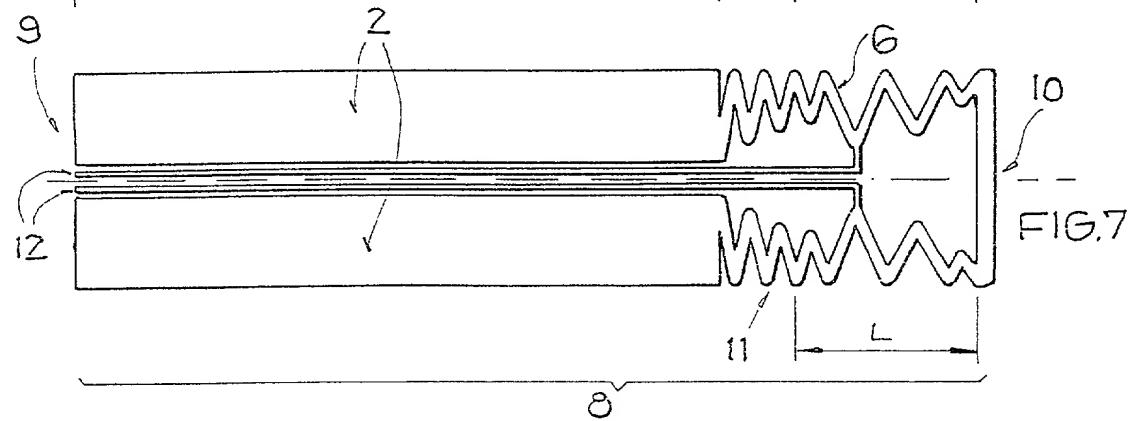


FIG.7

4/4

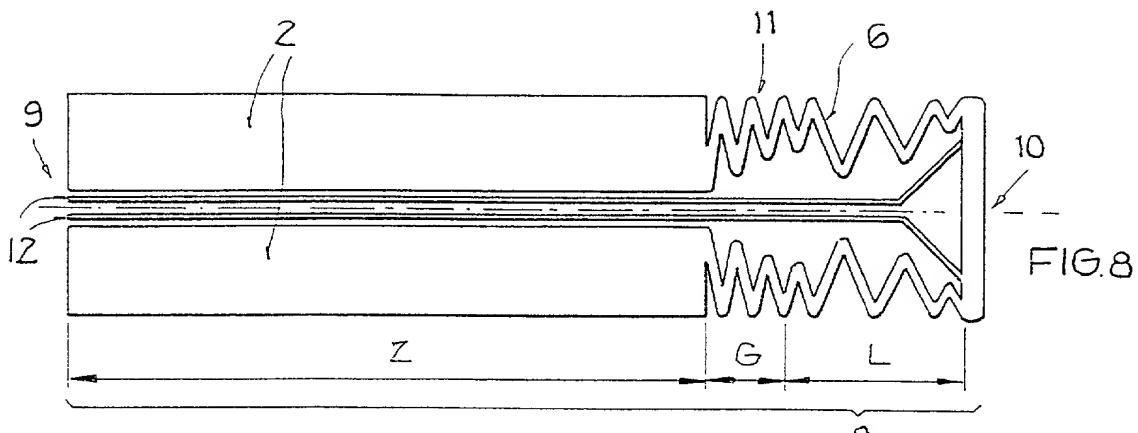


FIG.8

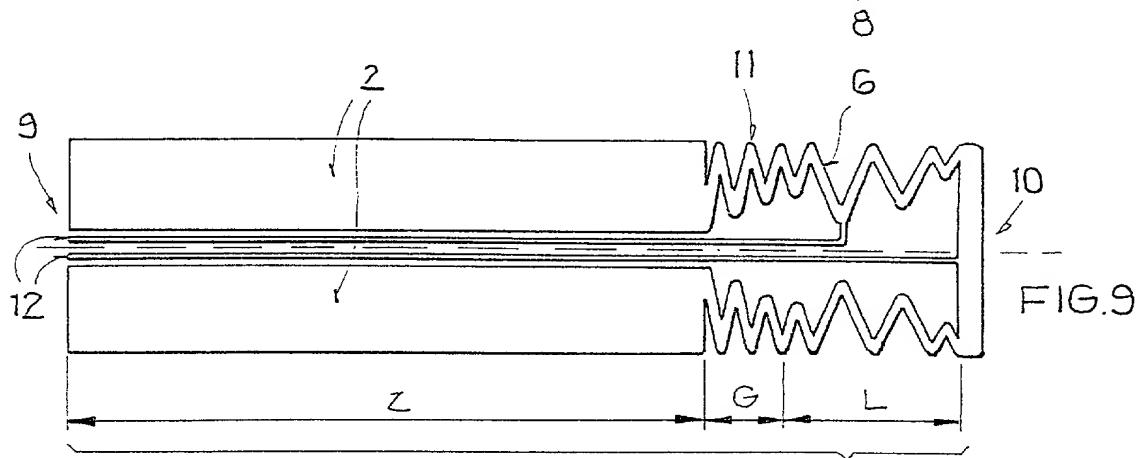


FIG.9

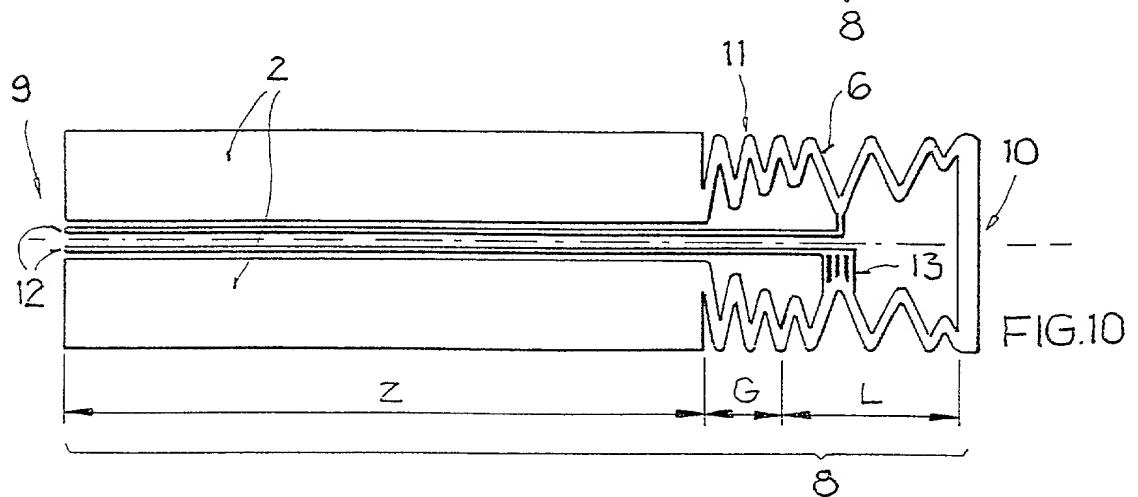


FIG.10

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/01 (10-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

| | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63) WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY | | Attorney Docket Number | 4191 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required) | | First Named Inventor | Michael BISCHOF |
| COMPLETE IF KNOWN | | | |
| Application Number | | / | |
| Filing Date | | | |
| Group Art Unit | | | |
| Examiner Name | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: | | | | |
| ARRANGEMENT OF A HEATING LAYER FOR A HIGH-TEMPERATURE GAS SENSOR | | | | |
| (Title of the Invention) | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the specification of which | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto | | | | |
| OR | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) <input type="text" value="11/25/2000"/> as United States Application Number or PCT International | | | | |
| Application Number <input type="text" value="PCT/EP00/11754"/> and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) <input type="text"/> (if applicable). | | | | |
| I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above. | | | | |
| I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application. | | | | |
| I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. | | | | |
| Prior Foreign Application Number(s) | Country | Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Priority Not Claimed | Certified Copy Attached? YES NO |
| 199 57 991.1 | Fed. Rep. of Germany | 12/02/1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto: | | | | |
| I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below. | | | | |
| Application Number(s) | Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto. | |
| | | | | |

DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

| U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number | Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Parent Patent Number (if applicable) |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Customer Number 021553 → Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here

Direct all correspondence to: Customer Number or Bar Code Label 021553 → 021553



PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR : | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name <u>Michael</u> (first and middle [if any]) | | Family Name <u>BISCHOF</u> or Surname | |
| Inventor's Signature | | Date <u>6.7.01</u> | |
| Residence: City <u>73230 Kirchheim-Teck</u> | State <u>DE</u> | Fed. Rep. of Country <u>Germany</u> | Citizenship <u>German</u> |
| Mailing Address <u>c/o DaimlerChrysler AG, Epplestr. 225</u> | | | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| City <u>Stuttgart</u> | State | ZIP <u>70567</u> | Fed. Rep. of Country <u>Germany</u> |
| NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name <u>Burkhard</u> (first and middle [if any]) | | Family Name <u>KESSLER</u> or Surname | |
| Inventor's Signature | | Date <u>6.7.01</u> | |
| Residence: City <u>89150 Laichingen</u> | State <u>DE</u> | Fed. Rep. of Country <u>Germany</u> | Citizenship <u>German</u> |
| Mailing Address <u>c/o DaimlerChrysler, Epplestr. 225</u> | | | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| City <u>Stuttgart</u> | State | ZIP <u>70567</u> | Fed. Rep. of Country <u>Germany</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto. | | | |

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 4191
USPS EXPRESS MAILPAGE 2 OF 4

EL 897 676 425 US

JULY 31 2001

(6)
over

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/02A (10-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

DECLARATION

ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)
Supplemental Sheet
Page 3 of 4

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:

 A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Ralf
NameFamily Name MOOS
or SurnameInventor's
Signature Date 6/26/01Residence: City 88048 Friedrichshafen DEX State Fed. Rep. of Country Germany Citizenship GermanMailing Address c/o DaimlerChrysler AG, Epplestr. 225

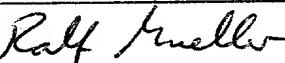
Mailing Address

City Stuttgart

State

ZIP 70567Fed. Rep. of
Country Germany

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:

 A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Ralf
NameFamily Name MUELLER
or SurnameInventor's
Signature Date 6/26/01Residence: City 88326 Aulendorf DEX State Fed. Rep. of Country Germany Citizenship GermanMailing Address c/o DaimlerChrysler AG, Epplestr. 225

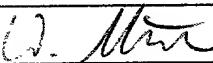
Mailing Address

City Stuttgart

State

ZIP 70567Fed. Rep. of
Country Germany

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:

 A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Willi
NameFamily Name MUELLER
or SurnameInventor's
Signature Date 6/26/01Residence: City 88682 Salem DEX State Fed. Rep. of Country Germany Citizenship GermanMailing Address c/o DaimlerChrysler AG, Epplestr. 225

Mailing Address

City Stuttgart

State

ZIP 70567Fed. Rep. of
Country GermanyATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 4191PAGE 3 OF 4USPS EXPRESS MAIL
EL 897 676 425 US
JULY 31 2001

over

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/02A (10-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**
Supplemental Sheet
Page 4 of 4

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name <u>Carsten</u> Inventor's Signature <u>Carsten Sly</u> | | Family Name or Surname <u>PLOG</u> Date <u>6/26/01</u> | |
| Residence: City | 88677 <u>Markdorf</u> <u>DE</u> | State | Fed. Rep. of Country <u>Germany</u> |
| Mailing Address <u>c/o DaimlerChrysler AG, Epplestr. 225</u> | | | |
| Mailing Address City <u>Stuttgart</u> State <u></u> ZIP <u>70567</u> Fed. Rep. of Country <u>Germany</u> | | | |
| Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name Inventor's Signature | | Family Name or Surname Date | |
| Residence: City | State | Country | Citizenship |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| City | State | ZIP | Country |
| Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name Inventor's Signature | | Family Name or Surname Date | |
| Residence: City | State | Country | Citizenship |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| City | State | ZIP | Country |

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO 4191
USPS EXPRESS MAIL

PAGE 4 OF 4

EL 897 676 425 US
JULY 31 2001